

531,030

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/036558 A2

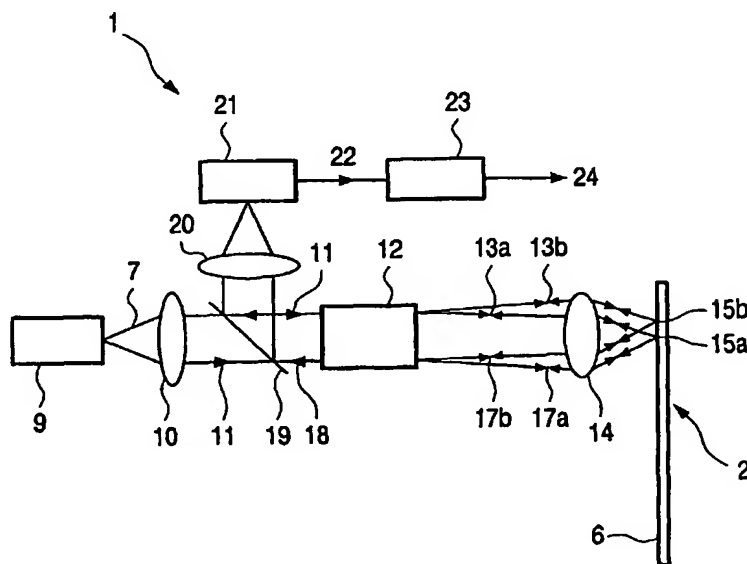
- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G11B 7/00**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/004049
- (22) International Filing Date:
12 September 2003 (12.09.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
02079298.2 15 October 2002 (15.10.2002) EP
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH,

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(54) Title: OPTICAL SCANNING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device 1 detects an information signal from an optical record carrier 2 using differential interference contrast. Two radiation beams 13a, 13b are generated and focused to two distinct spots 15a, 15b respectively displaced along a data track on the information layer of an optical record carrier. The relative positions of the spots in lands and pits can generate a path length difference between the reflected beams 17a, 17b. This path length difference causes the beams to interfere either constructively or destructively, depending on the relative land/pit position in the data track of the spots. This interference causes a detectable signal to be generated, the signal being representative of a transition from a pit to a land on the information layer 4 or vice versa.

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